

CALL FOR ENTRIES

EURO BALKAN SHORT PITCH 2026

Pitching Competition for Young Filmmakers and Screenwriters

Art. 1 PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

The Euro Balkan Film Festival is launching the first edition of the ***Euro Balkan Short Pitch***, a competition dedicated to young filmmakers and screenwriters with the aim of supporting the development of **short film projects** through **training**, professional visibility, and international networking. The competition stems from the desire to **create a creative bridge** between territories rich in stories, languages, and perspectives, providing a meeting place where short film projects can grow, be discussed, and take shape. The project aims to promote new voices in European cinema, fostering creative dialogue between Italy, the Balkan countries, and Europe.

Art. 2 PARTICIPATION

2.1 Eligible Participants

The *Euro Balkan Short Pitch* is open to:

- **Citizens of European Union Member States;**
- **Citizens of countries that have initiated the European integration process;**
- **Citizens of countries belonging to the Balkan region.**

2.2 Eligibility Requirements

Projects must be submitted by **authors under the age of 35** as of the date of submission of the application, who have not yet directed a feature-length film. All participants are strongly encouraged to have a good knowledge and command of the **English language**, both written and spoken, as the call for entries, official communications, and pitching activities will also be conducted in English.

2.3 Limitations and Obligations

Each author may submit one or more projects, with no quantitative limit. However, a separate registration must be completed for each project submitted. Once participation has been confirmed, the selected project may not be withdrawn from the programme except in exceptional circumstances, as assessed by the Organising Committee.

2.4 Project Category

Only one project category is eligible:

- **SHORT FILM**, with an expected running time of between 5 and 20 minutes.

Submitted projects must be **in development and not yet completed at the time of application**.

2.5 Genres and Theme

Only **fiction short film projects** are eligible. Short films must address themes related to **Euro-Balkan cultural dialogue**, with particular attention to issues of **identity, relationships, memory, contemporary life, and social change**. The chosen theme must emerge clearly and constitute a central element of the narrative, guiding the creative development and overall structure of the project.

Art. 3 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

3.1 SHORT FILM CATEGORY

Participants must submit the following materials, compiled into a single PDF file and uploaded to the FilmFreeway platform:

- **Logline**: a concise description of the project (max. 250 characters);
- **Synopsis**: a brief description of the project's plot (max. 1 page);
- **Moodboard**: a visual document representing the atmosphere, tone, and visual style of the project (max. 6 pages);
- **Director and/or Author Biography**: a brief professional biography of the director(s) and/or author(s) involved in the project;
- **Motivation Letter** (max. 1 page).

3.2 Submission Procedure

All project materials must be compiled into a single PDF file and submitted exclusively through the FilmFreeway platform. Materials required for registration, as well as any additional unsolicited materials sent by email, will not be accepted or considered valid for registration purposes. Following registration, participants are kindly requested not to send additional emails presenting their projects. Each participant whose project has been selected will receive notification of the selection by email.

Art. 4 REGISTRATION AND DEADLINE

Participation requires a symbolic submission fee per project. The fee covers the administrative and organisational costs of the event. Registrations and the corresponding payments must be made exclusively through the FilmFreeway platform.

Deadline:

- **Registrations from 22 June 2026 to 2 September 2026: FEE €5**

Under no circumstances will the submission fee be refunded. The pitches of the selected projects will be scheduled during the Euro Balkan Film Festival, taking place from **31 October to 7 November 2026**.

Art. 5 PURPOSE AND AWARDS

The competition will select a maximum of **fifteen projects**, which will be admitted to the pitching and mentoring stages of the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch 2026*. The selected projects will be evaluated by a **Professional Jury**, an **Industry Jury**, and the **Artistic Direction of the Euro Balkan Film Festival**.

PROFESSIONAL JURY

- **Best Euro Balkan Short Project Award – €1,500**
- **Artistic Vision Award – €1,000**
- **Euro Balkan Story Award – €500**

INDUSTRY JURY

- **Production Potential Award – €1,500**

ARTISTIC DIRECTION OF THE EURO BALKAN FILM FESTIVAL

- **Euro Balkan Film Festival Development Award – €1,000**

PARTNER AWARDS

- **Partner Development Award – €500**
- **Partner Development Award – €500**
- **Partner Development Award – €500**

Additional awards, professional opportunities, industry services, or in-kind recognitions may be announced prior to the event. All selected projects will have access to the **industry section** of EBFF26, which includes **workshops** on international topics and **meetings** with industry professionals.

Art. 6 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All rights to the projects submitted to the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch* shall remain exclusively with the participants, thereby ensuring the protection of each author's intellectual property. By submitting their application, participants authorise the Festival to use the project title, logline, excerpts from the synopsis, and visual materials provided for the purposes of the catalogue, website, press communications, social media, and promotional activities related to the event, while ensuring that the authors are duly credited at all times.

Art. 7 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Submitted projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Originality and Authorial Vision:** the project's ability to present an original idea and a distinctive personal perspective, with a strong narrative and authorial identity.
- **Euro-Balkan Cultural Dialogue:** the project's relevance in creating a cultural bridge between Italy and the Balkans through themes, settings, characters, languages, or perspectives that encourage encounter and exchange between the two areas.
- **Cultural and Social Relevance:** the project's ability to reflect on contemporary issues, identity, memory, and social and cultural transformations, with particular attention to the European and Balkan context.

- **Aesthetic Research and Cinematic Language:** the quality and potential of the visual and sound language, the creative approach to form, and openness to experimentation.

Art. 8 JURY

The projects will be evaluated by a Professional Jury composed of directors, screenwriters, artistic directors, programmers, and professionals from the film industry, as well as by an Industry Jury composed of producers, distributors, commissioning editors, representatives of film funds, and audiovisual development professionals.

Art. 9 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the selection will be communicated by email and/or through the official channels of the Euro Balkan Film Festival by **15 September 2026**.

The designated contact person for each selected project will be contacted by the Organising Committee and must confirm the names of the participants and their attendance **within five days of receiving the notification**.

In the event of failure to respond or refusal to participate in the event, the Artistic Committee reserves the right to select another project from among those submitted.

The presence of the author(s) at the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch* is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in the exclusion of the project.

Art. 10 PITCHING SESSIONS

The selected projects will be presented **in a single pitching session** during the Festival, scheduled to take place between **31 October and 7 November 2026**.

Each author will have **10 minutes** to present their project to the jury, answer any questions, and receive direct feedback from experts and producers in attendance. The exact date and final venue of the session will be communicated to participants at a later stage.

Indicative venues for the session include: **Casa del Cinema, Cinema Farnese, and Cinema Troisi** in Rome.

Art. 11 PARTICIPATION

Members of the teams of the selected projects must guarantee their participation in all in-person and online activities included in the programme:

- **Project Presentation and Feedback Session:** a brief meeting to get acquainted with the tutors and coordinators (**October 2026, online**);
- **Final Feedback and Pitch Preparation:** a meeting with the designated tutor on the day before the pitching session (**in person**);
- **Project Presentation as part of the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch*.**

Travel expenses and any accommodation costs in Rome related to the in-person sessions and presentation shall be borne by the participants.

Participation in the programme will entitle participants to accreditation for all screenings and events of the 9th edition of the Euro Balkan Film Festival 2026.

Once completed, projects selected for the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch* are required to include the following wording in their promotional materials and in the film's end credits:

“This film participated in the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch*, a project of the Euro Balkan Film Festival.”

Art. 12 CONTACT INFORMATION

To ensure efficient and timely communication, each participant must complete all fields required by FilmFreeway and provide all necessary contact details.

At the time of project submission, the following information is required:

- **Email:** An active email address that is regularly monitored and will be used for all official communications concerning the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch*.
- **Mobile Phone:** A mobile phone number at which participants can be reached in the event of an urgent matter or important communication requiring a prompt response.

This information is essential to ensure that all communications from the Organising Committee reach participants without delay, thereby facilitating the organisation of and participation in the event.

The Organisers cannot be held responsible if communications are not received by the participant.

Art. 13 PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Participants are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided and must ensure that the submitted materials do not infringe any third-party rights. The Organising Committee shall not be held responsible for any copyright infringement or other legal disputes arising from the submitted materials.

Art. 14 PRIVACY AND DATA PROCESSING

Participants' personal data will be processed in accordance with applicable privacy and data protection legislation. The information provided will be used exclusively for the purposes of the event and will not be shared with third parties without the consent of the individuals concerned.

Art. 15 CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants are required to comply with a code of conduct promoting collaboration, mutual respect, and professionalism. Discriminatory, offensive, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in exclusion from the event.

Art. 16 CONTACTS

For further information or clarification regarding these regulations, the Organising Committee may be contacted by email at:

eurobalkanshortpitch@gmail.com

The Organising Team is available to answer questions and provide assistance to participants.

Art. 17 REGULATIONS

Participation in the *Euro Balkan Short Pitch* constitutes acceptance of the conditions set forth in these Regulations. These Regulations may be amended by the Organising Committee, which reserves the right to make decisions concerning matters not expressly provided for herein and to update the competition guidelines and requirements in order to improve the participants' experience and ensure fairness throughout the evaluation process. The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend these Regulations for organisational reasons or in cases of force majeure, with any such changes being communicated through the Festival's official channels.

Any dispute shall fall under the jurisdiction of the **Court of Rome**.

These Regulations were last updated on **10 June 2026**.

Euro Balkan Film Festival